



MARYLAND HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

Overview of Maryland’s New Human Trafficking Law

Maryland’s new anti-trafficking law went into effect on October 1, 2007, as an *Act concerning Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude*, under Chapter 341/Chapter 340). House Bill No. 876/Senate Bill No. 606. Its key provisions are listed below.

Old Law	New Law	Gaps in New Law
<p>Pandering (“pimping”) by force or coercion, or of a child, was a misdemeanor, with 10 year maximum penalty.</p>	<p>Pandering of a minor is now a felony that carries a 25 year maximum penalty. §11-303</p> <p>Pandering of a minor is now renamed “human trafficking.”</p>	<p>Pandering an adult by force or coercion is still a misdemeanor.</p> <p>Forced commercial sex acts such as stripping or making pornographic films are not covered.</p> <p>“Human trafficking” also includes forced labor and forced prostitution of adults.</p>
<p>No Maryland statute explicitly mentioned forced labor or services.</p>	<p>Maryland’s extortion law, § 3-701, now explicitly includes “forced labor or services.” Extortion is a felony that carries a maximum of 10 years.</p> <p>It also adds the destruction, concealment, confiscation, etc of government documents as a means of extortion.</p> <p>It also allows prosecutors to charge the kingpins, by including language that targets conspirators.</p>	<p>If the amount of labor or services extorted was under \$500, it is a misdemeanor that carries 18 months maximum penalty.</p>
<p>Maryland’s Sexual Solicitation of a Minor statut, §3-324, only applied to sexual acts, not prostitution or commercial sex.</p>	<p>§ 3-324, which prohibits solicitation of a minor by several means, including phone and Internet, now includes prostitution-related crimes.</p>	<p>§ 3-324 requires that the defendant “knowingly solicits” a minor; allowing defendants to use the defense that they did not know the victim’s true age</p>